

IN THE DRAWINGS

In the Drawings

Please replace Fig. 1 with an amended figure attached herewith. Approval is requested.

COMMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the following amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

The drawings and abstract have been amended as requested by the Examiner.

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9-12, 14-18 and 20 are unpatentable over the cited references, i.e., Fukuhara (5,061,885), Gass et al (6,526,536) and Thompson et al (6,479,958).

Applicant amends claims 1, 3, 5-9, 12, 14-18 and 20 and cancel claims 4, 13 and 19 for overcoming the rejection without adding new subject matter. More particularly, independent claims 1, 9 and 16 are amended by adding the limitations of allowable claims 4, 13 and 19 respectively which have been canceled. Further amendments to the claims are provided to improve clarity and readability.

Applicant submits that the cited references do not disclose, teach or suggest all the features of the present invention as set forth in the pending claims as now amended.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that all pending claims namely claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-18 and 20 are now patentable over the cited references.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN


Eric S. Hyman, Reg. No. 30,139

Dated: February 4, 2005

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(310) 207-3800

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class Mail, With Sufficient Postage, In An Envelope Addressed To: Mail Stop: Aemndments, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Linda Marie D'Elia

2-4-05

February 4, 2005